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Egypt

Poultry and Products

Egypt lifts ban and removes duties on poultry imports

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Report Highlights:

On Tuesday July 10, 2006, the Egyptian Minister of Trade announced that the February 2006 ban on poultry imports from all sources over fears of Avian Influenza (AI) is to be lifted.

In addition, the duties on imports of poultry products, red meat, fish and poultry industry inputs are to be removed from July 15, 2006 through December 31, 2006.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Cairo [EG1]
[EG]

On Tuesday, July 10, 2006, Trade and Industry Minister Rashid Mohammed Rashid, acting on instructions from President Mubarak, announced that poultry meat and poultry products “will be taken off the list of banned imports.” Imports of all poultry products were banned from all sources in February 2006 after Egypt announced its first cases of Avian Influenza (AI). Since the AI outbreak and importation ban, the retail price of red meat and fish has doubled.

Rashid also announced import duties on fish and frozen meats, including poultry, would be lifted from July 15 until December 31, 2006. Rashid stated that these decisions were meant to allow Egyptians access to reasonably priced meat, fish and dairy products in the run-up to the month of Ramadan.

In 1989, the Egyptian government banned the importation of poultry and poultry products in order to protect local production. Prior to the ban, total poultry products imports were estimated at 100,000 MT, out of which between 50,000 and 60,000 MT of leg quarters were imported from the U.S.

In 1997, the Egyptian government replaced the ban on frozen poultry imports (to comply with its trade obligations under the Uruguay Round of GATT) with a tariff rate of 80 percent, which was to be phased out over a period of ten years. In 2004, Egypt reduced the import tariff on frozen poultry and poultry products to 32 percent.

Due to domestic shortages, the Egyptian Ministry of Defense has recently imported approximately 9,000 MT of duty-free frozen chicken from Brazil.